

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01
INT-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00 SSO-00 OES-07 AGRE-00
STR-07 AID-05 HA-05 ARA-10 /166 W
-----125756 261513Z /42

P R 261315Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9776
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 3623

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RO, VM
SUBJ: CEAUSESCU VISIT TO VIET NAM

1. SUMMARY. FROM PUBLIC RECORD OF CEAUSESCU'S VIET NAM VISIT
MAY 23-26 AS REPORTED BY ROMANIAN MEDIA, WE HAVE IMPRESSION
THAT, WHILE VISIT WENT WELL, IT WAS LONGER ON POLITICAL
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SYMBOLISM THAN SUBSTANTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT. THERE IS NO HINT
THAT CEAUSESCU WILL PLAY ANY ROLE IN RESOLVING VIET NAM-
CAMBODIA PROBLEMS. JOINT DECLARATION IS MORE MILITANT IN
TONE THAN IS USUAL IN FORMAL DOCUMENTS SIGNED BY ROMANIA,
AND HAS ROMANIA BOTH ENDORSING VIETNAMESE CLAIMS FOR US
"WAR REPARATIONS" AND CALLING FOR CHINESE "LIBERATION"
OF TAIWAN. AN AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE IN EXPLOITING

VIETNAMESE COAL RESOURCES COULD BE POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT FOR ROMANIA. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO BUCHAREST MEDIA, PRINCIPAL EVENTS WERE ARRIVAL CEREMONY, AND STATE DINNER MAY 23, A THEATER GALA MAY 24, AND A TEXTILE FACTORY VISIT AND JOINT "FRIENDSHIP" RALLY MAY 25. THERE WERE ALSO AT LEAST TWO ROUNDS OF BILATERAL TALKS, AND A LENGTHY JOINT DECLARATION WAS SIGNED (ASSUME FBIS HAS TEXT OF SPEECHES AND DECLARATION).

3. SEVERAL POINTS STRIKE US OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.
-- VIET NAM/CAMBODIA RELATIONS RECEIVE ONLY SHORT PARAGRAPH IN JOINT DECLARATION WHICH SIMPLY REPEATS CALL FOR PEACEFUL

SOLUTION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT. BY NEVERTHELESS, LENGTHY PASSAGE IN LE DUAN FRIENDSHIP RALLY SPEECH CITES EVERLASTING FRATERNAL RELATIONS AMONG VIET NAM, CAMBODIA, AND LAOS; CLAIMS A SPECIAL VIET NAM/LAOS RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED; REGRETS CAMBODIAN LEADERS HAVE SEEN FIT TO TRIGGER A BORDER CONFLICT; AND RECITES SERIES OF VIETNAMESE OFFERS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO DEMONSTRATE VIETNAMESE REASONABLENESS. FOR HIS PART, CEAUSESCU STATED THAT HE WAS "SADDENED" WHEN INFORMED OF THIS CONFLICT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PROBLEMS WOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. THERE IS NO HINT WHATSOEVER IN ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF EITHER SIDE, AS REPORTED HERE, THAT

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CEAUSESCU WOULD IN ANY WAY ATTEMPT TO MEDIATE DISPUTE, OR INDEED THAT HE WAS INVITED TO DO SO BY ANYBODY. WE HAVE NO INDICATION YET, HOWEVER, OF WHAT MAY HAVE TRANSPIRED IN CEAUSESCU/LE DUAN PRIVATE TALKS; CLEARLY THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED.

-- JOINT DECLARATION CONTAINS CONCRETE ROMANIAN ENDORSEMENT OF VIETNAMESE DEMAND THAT UNITED STATES TO ITS "DUTY" BY PROVIDING REPARATIONS (AMOUNT UNSPECIFIED) "TO HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND (ASSIST) RECONSTRUCTION OF VIET NAM" IN BELIEF THIS WOULD BE "FAVORABLE CONDITION" FOR NORMALIZATION OF US-VIET NAM RELATIONS.

-- DECLARATION ALSO CITES JOINT SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLE OF CHINESE PEOPLE TO LIBERATE TAIWAN, "A SACRED AND INTEGRAL PART OF CHINA."

-- BOTH SIDES ALSO CALL FOR PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA AND WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS AND WEAPONS FROM THE SOUTH.

-- STRUGGLE OF CHILEAN PEOPLE TO REESTABLISH "INDEPENDENCE AND DEMOCRACY" IS ENDORSED. THIS IS FIRST REFERENCE TO CHILE IN FORMAL DOCUMENT SIGNED BY ROMANIA IN SOME TIME; GOR CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRESENT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND THERE ARE RESIDENT EMBASSIES IN BUCHAREST AND SANTIAGO.

-- DOCUMENT ALSO LAYS UNUSUALLY HEAVY EMPHASIS, FOR ROMANIA,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 3623

ON NEED TO COMBAT AGGRESSIVE IMPERIALISM (SOURCE OF WHICH
IS UNSPECIFIED). HOWEVER, THERE IS NO DIRECT REFERNECE
TO UNITED STATES ALTHOUGH LESS FORMAL VIETNAMESE STATEMENTS
DURING COURSE OF VISIT ARE LACED WITH SELF-PRAISE FOR
DEFEAT OF "AMERICAN AGGRESSORS" DURING WAR. THESE
STATEMENTS ALSO STRESS THAT TIME IS PARTICULARLY RIPE
FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLES.
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-- ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS SIGNED ARE ROUTINE WITH MARKED EXCEPTION OF ONE IN WHICH ROMANIA PLEDGES ITS "COOPERATION" IN DEVELOPMENT OF ANTHRACITE COAL DEPOSITS IN KHE CHAM (ROMANIAN SPELLING) AREA. ROMANIA HAS BEEN ACTIVELY SEEKING FOR SOME TIME TO RELIEVE ITS DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS AND DIVERSIFY ITS SOURCES OF SUPPLY FOR HIGH QUALITY COKING COAL, A VITAL INGREDIENT FOR ITS AMBITIOUS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS, AND GOR CAN BE EXPECTED TO PUSH THIS ITEM INTENSELY.

-- WHILE JOINT DECLARATIONS STRESSES NEED TO STRENGTHEN UNITY OF COMMUNIST PARTIES, THIS IS TO TAKE PLACE ON BASIS OF MARXIST-LENINIST PRINCIPLES AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY; TERM "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM" DOES NOT APPEAR.

4. COMMENT. JOINT DECLARATION IS BASICALLY SIMILAR IN STRUCTURE AND SUBSTANCE TO THE ONE SIGNED IN BUCHAREST NOVEMBER 1975 AT END OF LE DUAN VISIT HERE, WITH EXCEPTION OF US "WAR REPARATIONS" ITEM. PREVIOUS DECLARATION DID REFER TO PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM AS BASIS FOR INTERPARTY RELATIONS, BUT THIS WAS BEFORE BERLIN ECPC CONFERENCE. IN SUMMARY, PENDING INFORMED COMMENT FROM ROMANIAN SOURCES, OUR FIRST IMPRESSION IS THAT IT WAS A GOOD VISIT, BUT LONGER ON POLITICAL SYMBOLISM THAN ON SUBSTANTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT.
AGGREY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUCHAR03623
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780223-0166
Format: TEL
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780516/aaaaamyd.tel
Line Count: 197
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 93623096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2556600
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEAUSESCU VISIT TO VIET NAM
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, RO, VM, (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93623096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014